



1ST CLASS PROTECTION NEWSLETTER

Your Security News, Information & Updates



WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE

Residential Burglary - 1

Street Incident - 2

Alexa, etc - 3

The Toy Drop - 4

Thank you to our Guards - 5

Local News - 6

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

There have been a number of recent news stories regarding burglaries and distressing incidents in North West London.

St John's Wood

A young woman at home with her baby was victim of an aggravated burglary in September, whereby three suspects forced entry and demanded to know the location of their safe, making off with the woman's wedding ring and bracelet. CCTV has been released; the suspects made off in a black Audi with the registration: GU13FDV – though it is unknown whether these are false plates. Police are investigating.

CONTINUED...

Highgate

An unknown number of burglars entered a home on Hampstead Lane on November 14th at around 5pm, while the mother - in her thirties - was inside with her children. The burglars made off out of a first floor window with more than £1m worth of jewellery, designer clothing and a substantial amount of cash.

Stories like this are an all too common occurrence. Crime data published on the Met police website shows that burglary across London is up 2.24% in the 12 months to October 2019 compared to the previous 12 months with a reported 119,778 offences committed.

Westminster is the worst borough for burglary - 8,730 offences recorded - with Barnet being a close second at 7,350 for the period. It is also clear to see the peak in burglary numbers across winter months, reminding us of the correlation between days growing dark earlier and an increase in opportunity for crime.

It is also of interest to note that the same period has seen **an increase of 9.01% across all reported crime**, with Westminster being the London Borough with the most offences at 141,497.

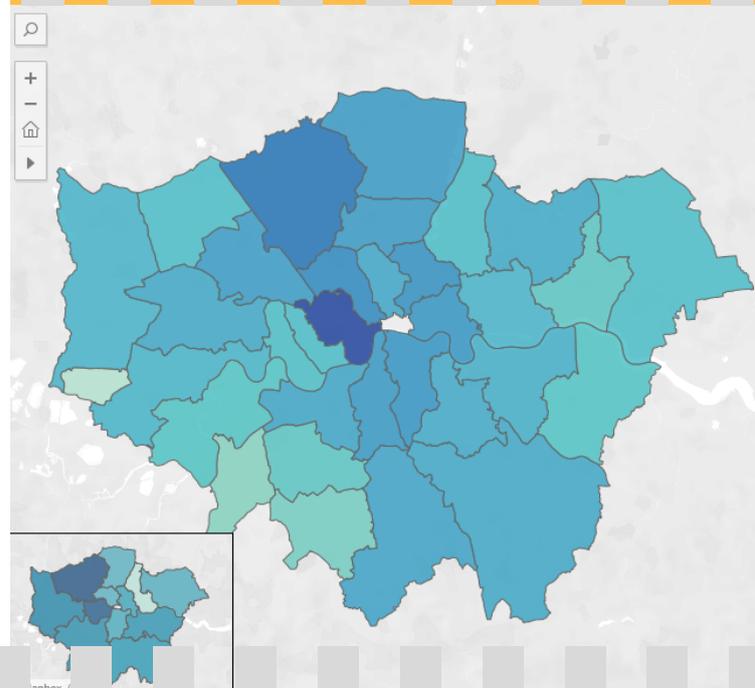
Some of the streets that we patrol have also been subject to attempted burglary, theft and violence. In such a worrying climate, we urge all of our residential customers to make use of the our Meet and Greet service, to ensure they do not take the chance of being targeted on their doorstep and for peace of mind when leaving or arriving home.

For more general advice on what you can do to protect your home, we remind you of the short video we produced, which suggests good practice for residents:

Top Tips for Securing your Home

CONTINUED...

"Burglary is up 2.24% in the 12 months to October 2019, compared to the previous 12 months, with a reported 119,778 offences committed"





STREET INCIDENT

October 28th - Kensington

One of our guards reported an incident to us, whilst on duty on October 28th.

Having observed a black hatchback driving erratically at the corner of Eldon and Stanford Roads, he followed it to where it stopped beside a customer's Range Rover. Three teenagers emerged and took something from their boot, as if looking to steal the car.

The guard used his car horn and shouted to them that the Police were on their way. Two of the group then quickly approached our vehicle carrying a golf club and baseball bat and struck the car, as our guard was reversing, smashing the windshield and damaging a side window.

Our guard reversed to safety and called the police, during which time the teens removed a catalytic converter from a second vehicle. The guard approached them again and they attacked the patrol vehicle once more before leaving the scene. Police arrived 15 minutes later.

This was obviously traumatic for our guard and a reminder of the real danger they face each night. It is a reminder that our services are first and foremost a deterrent; and in such cases as these, where our guards might be outnumbered, their presence can reduce the extent of any crime committed and ensure Police are notified as soon as possible.



ALEXA, ETC

An article published by Wired magazine in November, raises the issue of a security flaw in popular voice command machines.

It seems lasers can be used to silently "speak" to any computer that receives voice commands – including smartphones, Amazon Echo speakers, Google Homes, and Facebook's Portal video chat devices.

"Light commands" can be sent from hundreds of feet away and can be used to open garages, make online purchases or any number of commands that could jeopardise your privacy and security. The laser command can easily pass through a window, when the device's owner isn't home to notice the flashing speck of light or the target device's responses.

Until any fixes or design changes are addressed and implemented, it is advised that for anyone concerned by the attack's implications any such device should be hidden from view: if a would-be criminal can see your Echo or Google Home through a window, they may be able to talk to it too.



THE TOY DROP

In November, 1st Class Protection staff were involved with the charitable organisation, The Toy Drop, for the second time, donating high quality, second-hand teddies, toiletries, children's games and clothing.

This year, the donations were collected for two projects: a girls' orphanage in Odessa and babies undergoing cleft-palette operations in Manilla.

We were pleased to collect even more donations than last year and were so excited to see some of the pictures of gifts being received by the children and how appreciated they are. Here's just a sample of some of the amazing donations we collected.

For more information about the organisation, follow the link:

[The Toy Drop](#)



THANK YOU TO OUR GUARDS

We have been busy packing and distributing our delicious Christmas hampers for all of our security guards. We are always so grateful for their hard work and effort and love when we can show them our appreciation.

We hope you will join us in wishing them seasons' greetings and a happy new year!

EOTM

Each month we name two guards as our Employees of the Month. These are guards, who have displayed excellence in one or several aspects of their job. This is decided via Location Manager nominations and recommendations from clients.

We love to hear from customers and invite you to nominate your guards, if you are happy with the service they provide. They will receive a bonus and certificate in recognition of their great work.



LOCAL CRIME

Parent Patrol - East Finchley

Over the last six weeks, teenagers in East Finchley have been threatened with knives and told to give over their possessions, including their footwear.

Martin Bright's son was mugged at knifepoint four weeks ago. He had his bank card, phone and trainers stolen by the group of four youths aged between 15 and 16 in East Finchley High Road.

In response, a group of parents got together on Friday night to "patrol" that junction for a number of hours to deter gangs. The group also plans to hold a public meeting with police about the issue.

Bright said: "It's happening mostly in the evenings between school age boys on the High Road, near East Finchley's border with Fortis Green. Those with information are urged to report it."

Knightsbridge Murder

Detectives are seeking information after police were called to Brompton Road, SW1 shortly after midnight on Friday, 6 December following reports of a stabbing.

Officers, the London Ambulance Service and London's Air Ambulance attended and found a man suffering a stab injury. He was pronounced dead at the scene at 00:39hrs. The deceased is 20-year-old Mohammed Abdullah Al Arami, an Omani student who lived in London.